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IRTHLINGBOROUGH  
URBAN DISTRICT



ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

for the

Year 1959



P. X. BERMINGHAM, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H.

Together with the Report of

A. DEWHURST, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.



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# Irthlingborough Urban District.

## SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS, 1959.

Area (acres)	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,910
Population 1921 (census)	...	...	...	...	...	...	4,911
„ 1931 (census)	...	...	...	...	...	...	4,621
„ 1951 (census)	...	...	...	...	...	...	5,015
„ 1959	...	...	...	...	...	...	5,160
Number of separate dwellings occupied 1921 (census)	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,002
„ „ „ „ „ 1931 (census)	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,208
„ „ „ „ „ 1959	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,697
Rateable value, 1959	...	...	...	...	...	...	£54,932
Product of a penny rate, 1959	...	...	...	...	...	...	£218

### Live Births.

	<i>Total</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Rate</i>
Legitimate	64	33	31	
Illegitimate	1	—	1	
	65	33	32	12.59

### Stillbirths.

	<i>Total</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Rate</i>
Legitimate	1	1	—	
Illegitimate	—	—	—	
	1	1	—	0.19

	<i>Total</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Rate</i>
Deaths (all causes)	57	35	22	11.04

### Deaths from Puerperal Causes.

Puerperal and post-abortive sepsis	...	...	...	<i>nil.</i>
Other puerperal causes	...	...	...	<i>nil.</i>

Infant Mortality—rate per 1,000 live births.	<i>Total</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Rate</i>
Legitimate	1	1	—	
Illegitimate	—	—	—	<i>nil.</i>
	1	1	—	15.38

Deaths from Cancer (All ages)	...	...	...	16
„ „ Measles (All ages)	...	...	...	<i>nil.</i>
„ „ Whooping Cough (All ages)	...	...	...	<i>nil.</i>
„ „ Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	...	...	...	<i>nil.</i>

# Irthlingborough Urban District Council.

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## *Members of the Public Health Committee :*

COUNCILLOR MRS. M. D. BRIDGLAND (Chairman), R. B. BLAND,  
B. BRIGHTWELL, C. E. GRIMMER, L. V. ROGERS, H. K. WOOLSEY.

## *Public Health Officers of the Local Authority :*

Medical Officer of Health,

P. X. BERMINGHAM, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H.

## *also holds appointments of*

Medical Officer of Health, Borough of Higham Ferrers.

Medical Officer of Health, Wellingborough Urban District Council.

Medical Officer of Health, Rushden Urban District Council.

Medical Officer of Health, Wellingborough Rural District Council.

School Medical Officer.

## Secretary :

MISS J. PEARSON.

## Public Health Inspector, Meat Inspector, Surveyor, etc.,

A. DEWHURST, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

*Certified Meat and Food Inspector.*

*Telephone,*  
*Office:* Wellingborough 2446.  
*Home:* Rushden 2810.

Health Department,  
Swanspool,  
Wellingborough.

*June, 1960.*

**To the Chairman and Councillors of the Urban District Council of  
Irthlingborough.**

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my twelfth annual report on the Health and Sanitary circumstances of the area for the year 1959. The report is set out in sections and I should like to refer briefly to items of interest in each section.

The natural and social conditions of the area are dealt with in Section A which contains the vital statistics. The birth rate for the year was 12.59 per thousand population and was less than in the previous year when it was 14.20. The death rate, 11.04 per thousand population, was greater than in the previous year when it was 9.33. Table No. 1 in Section H gives the causes of death, and from this it will be seen that deaths from diseases of the heart and circulatory system number 16. This is the same number as deaths from cancer for the year. In the past, diseases of the heart and circulatory system have always been by far the greatest cause of death and so it is interesting to note that for the first time the number of cancer deaths is equal to deaths from this cause. Four of the cancer deaths were due to malignant neoplasm of the lung or bronchus and all occurred in males. With regard to diseases due to heart, coronary disease or angina was the cause of five deaths, two males and three females. It is interesting to note that the female deaths from this cause outnumber male. Two deaths occurred from pulmonary tuberculosis and this number is similar to that of 1957 when two deaths also occurred. There were no deaths in 1958 from this cause. The infant mortality rate was 15.38 per thousand live births compared with 27.39 for the previous year.

In Section B the health services available for the area are given, and from this it will be seen that the area is well covered. Also in this section an account of the activities of the Irthlingborough Old Folks' Welfare Committee is given, and this Committee should be congratulated on the excellent work they do for the old people of the district.

Information concerning the water supply and sewage disposal works will be found in Section C and it is pleasing to report that 1959 saw the completion and official opening of the £24,000 new water scheme and the bringing into use of the re-equipped and modernised pumping station. For the information of the Council, the results of chemical analyses of crude sewage and final effluent are put side by side. It will be seen from a

comparison of these two analyses that suspended solids are in excess of the recognised standards, but the B.O.D. figure is well below the usual permitted figure. However, the Council are pursuing their investigations into the workings of the sewage plant and have engaged consultants to draw up a scheme for additional works.

An account of the building programme will be found in Section D, also information concerning the progress made with the five year slum clearance programme. It is also pleasing to note that suitable clearance areas are re-developed as soon as possible, thus avoiding nuisance arising from such areas.

In Section E, which deals with the inspection and supervision of food, it will be noted that much increased activity has taken place during the year and the number of samples taken have shown a considerable increase. The importance of routine inspection of food premises is also emphasised. I would suggest that under the heading of milk sampling the results of the methylene blue and phosphatase tests should be given separately. The phosphatase test determines the efficiency of pasteurisation and the methylene blue reaction test gives a measurement of the keeping qualities and is influenced to some degree by the bacteriological cleanliness of the milk and consequently the conditions of production.

The prevalence and control over infectious diseases is the subject under review in Section F. In this section it will be seen that measles and whooping cough were the two prevalent diseases during the year. An account also is given of an outbreak of epidemic diarrhoea and vomiting which occurred in the last quarter of the year. Vaccination and immunisation figures are also given and I am grateful to the County Medical Officer for supplying me with these figures.

Section H is concerned with the Statistical Tables and is of considerable interest.

In conclusion I should like to thank Madam Chairman and members of the Health Committee for their help and encouragement throughout the year and Mr. Dewhurst for information supplied for this report and his ever-ready assistance. I have included a list of acknowledgments in the report this year and again would like to express my thanks for information supplied. Finally I would like to thank Miss Pearson for her assistance in compiling this report.

I have the honour to be

Your obedient Servant,

P. X. BERMINGHAM,

*Medical Officer of Health.*

#### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Clerk of the Council

County Medical Officer of Health

Surveyor and Public Health Inspector



## SECTION A.

### NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

**Area**—The Urban District of Irthlingborough covers an area of 2,910 acres and has a density of population of 1.7 persons per acre. The housing factor is 3.05 persons per house.

**Population**—The estimated mid-year home population given in the Registrar-General's returns for 1959 was 5,160. This figure shows an increase of 20 on the previous year. The natural increase, that is births compared with deaths, was 8.

**Deaths**—57 deaths were recorded during the year which gives a rate of 11.04 per 1,000 of population. This shows an increase on the previous year when the rate was 9.33. The death rate for England and Wales for 1959 was 11.6. A classification of the causes of death is given in Table No. 1 in Section H. Sixteen deaths were due to diseases of the heart and circulatory system compared with 29 in the previous year. Five of these deaths were due to coronary disease or angina compared with three in the previous year. Cancer deaths were twice the number of the previous year 16 compared with 8 and of these four, all in males, were due to cancer of the lung or bronchus. Two, one male and one female, died from this cause in the previous year. Two deaths were due to pulmonary tuberculosis. There were no deaths from this cause in the previous year. Five deaths were the result of accidents compared with one in the previous year. A comparison between the death rate for the Administrative County, England and Wales and Irthlingborough for the years 1946 to 1959 is shown in the following table:

**Death Rates, 1946-59**

<i>Irthlingborough</i>					<i>Administrative County England &amp; Wales</i>	
<i>Year</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Recorded Rate</i>	<i>Recorded Rate</i>	
1946	51	23	28	10.85	12.00	11.5
1947	59	26	33	12.26	12.43	12.0
1948	55	29	26	11.7	11.00	10.8
1949	75	39	36	15.09	12.07	11.7
1950	47	26	21	9.65	12.01	11.6
1951	62	28	34	12.30	12.13	12.5
1952	58	32	26	11.60	11.04	11.3
1953	47	28	19	9.23	11.51	11.4
1954	48	30	18	9.39	11.04	11.3
1955	53	24	29	10.39	11.38	11.7
1956	71	36	35	13.92	11.24	11.7
1957	55	24	31	10.82	10.97	11.5
1958	48	24	24	9.33	11.17	11.7
1959	57	35	22	11.04	*	11.6

\* Not available.



**Births**—65 births were recorded during the year which gives a birth rate of 12.59 per 1,000 of population. The rate for the previous year was 14.20. The birth rate for England and Wales for 1959 was 16.5. In Section H, Table No. 2, the birth rate for Irthlingborough is given for the years dating back to 1902.

**Illegitimate Births**—One illegitimate birth was recorded which gives a rate of 0.19 per 1,000 of population. The rate for the previous year was 0.38.

**Stillbirths**—One stillbirth occurred which gives a rate of 0.19 per 1,000 of population and is the same rate as in the previous year.

**Maternal Mortality**—No deaths occurred for the sixteenth year in succession.

**Infant Mortality**—One death occurred during the year which gives a rate of 15.38 per 1,000 live births compared with 27.39 for the previous year. The rate for England and Wales for 1959 was 22.0.

In the following table a comparison is shown between the infant mortality rate for the Administrative County, England and Wales and Irthlingborough:

	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959
Irthlingborough ...	(0) ‡	44.77(3)	33.33(2)	27.39(2)	15.38(1)
Administrative County	20.79	19.68	22.53	19.75	*
England and Wales ...	24.9	23.8	23.0	22.5	22.0
‡ Number of Deaths.			* Not available.		

**Neonatal Mortality**—This subdivision of the infant mortality rate is concerned with infant deaths within the first 28 days of independent existence. No deaths occurred within this period and so the rate is Nil. The rate for the previous year was 27.39 per 1,000 live births. A further sub-division is now given in the Registrar-General's returns and that is infant deaths within the first week of life. No deaths occurred in this period.

## SECTION B.

### GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES.

**Laboratory Service**—This is provided by the Public Health laboratory at Northampton and the laboratory attached to the Kettering General Hospital, with its branches at the Park Hospital, Wellingborough and the Rushden Memorial Hospital, The Hayway, Rushden. Water and milk samples and also washed bottle and churn rinses are sent to the Laboratory at Northampton for examination. The service rendered by these laboratories is much appreciated.

**Diphtheria Antitoxin**—Diphtheria antitoxin used to be kept at these offices but under the National Health Service Act, 1946 the Regional Hospital Board is now responsible for the supply of antitoxin and this can be obtained from Northampton General Hospital.

**Ambulance Service**—This service is provided by the County Council and the St. John Ambulance Brigade Men's Division assist in covering the area.

**Nursing in the Home and Home Helps**—This service is provided by the County Council. The home help service is of great value in the prevention of the break down in the aged and often it is the means by which they can remain in their own homes where otherwise they would have to be removed to institutions.

**Hospital Accommodation and Outpatient Clinics**—These services are provided by the Oxford Regional Hospital Board and the following facilities are available.

General hospitals are as follows :

Northampton.

Kettering.

Gynaecological and children : Wellingborough Hospital.

Acute medical cases, skins and children : Highfield Hospital,  
Wellingborough.

Chronic sick, the aged and persons in need of care and attention :  
Park Hospital, Wellingborough.

Maternity : Park Hospital, Wellingborough.

Tuberculosis : Rushden House Sanatorium.

Infectious diseases : The Harborough Road Hospital, Northampton.

Orthopaedic : The Manfield Orthopaedic Hospital, Northampton.

Out-patient Clinics are held at Northampton and Kettering and also at the Rushden Memorial Hospital, The Hayway, Rushden; Wesleyan Rooms, Queen Street, Rushden, Orthopaedic Clinic, 1st and 3rd Fridays of each month.

The County Council hold infant welfare centres at St. Peter's Church Rooms on the 1st Thursday of each month and a second welfare centre is held at the Surgery, Palmer Avenue, Addington Road Estate on the third Thursday.

Antenatal and postnatal Clinics are held at St. Peter's Church rooms on the fourth Friday of the month.

**National Assistance Act, 1948**—Under Section 47 of this act the Council are responsible for the removal of persons in need of care and attention. No action was necessary during the year.

The Irthlingborough Old Folks' Welfare Committee continued to carry out its excellent work in the area. As stated in last year's annual report, the Committee is divided into two sections, one looks after the Darby and Joan Club and the second visits old persons in their home. The number of welfare visitors in the second section has been increased and are carrying out some very fine work. The chiropody service continues to function satisfactorily and members of the Darby and Joan Club are seen monthly at a room made available at the Council Offices, the charge per visit now is 7/6d and of this the Committee pay 4/6. The same fee applies to non members of the club and arrangements are made where they can visit the surgery of a visiting chiropodist on Friday afternoons and the Committee again pay 4/6d. House bound old folk are also visited and payments are similar to that stated.

The Darby and Joan Club members had their annual holiday at Bexhill and one couple this year availed of the opportunity provided by the County Council and accompanied them on their holiday scheme for old folk.

## SECTION C.

### SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

**Water Supply**—The Urban District Council is the authority responsible for the town's water supply. The source of supply is from shallow wells sunk in the Nene valley gravels. This comprises two six feet diameter wells approximately one mile apart, each fitted with two submersible pumps rated at 7,000 gallons per hour and each pumping water into a 6,000 gallon balancing tank. From this balancing tank, water is pumped by means of two 6 inch diameter mains to a storage reservoir in Windmill Road. This reservoir has a capacity of 650,000 gallons. In addition to the two wells described above there also is a three feet diameter well with two small bore holes supplementing its supply, and this supplies untreated water for industrial use. 1959 saw the completion and official opening of the £24,000 new water scheme and the bringing into use of the re-equipped and modernised pumping station.

**Treatment**—All water for human consumption is treated. Water is first filtered by means of mechanical filtration and then chlorinated. Following treatment it enters the 6,000 gallon balancing tank where it remains for half an hour before being pumped into supply.

**Water Consumption**—Water consumption for the year was 99,563,000 gallons which is 7,341,000 gallons less than the previous year. The following shows the water consumption figures over the last six years:

1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959
79,288,199	85,946,000	99,824,000	110,019,000	106,904,000	99,563,000

The following table shows the average daily consumption per head over the last six years:

	1959	1958	1957	1956	1955	1954
All purposes	53.49	57.43	59.10	53.63	46.15	42.68
Domestic ...	29.01	26.79	28.22	24.57	24.59	22.10
Trade ...	24.48	30.64	30.88	29.06	21.56	20.58

These figures show a fall in trade consumption for the first time since 1955. This most likely is due to changes in certain trade processes. The figure for domestic consumption continues to rise, due no doubt to the greater number of houses being erected with bathrooms and existing houses provided with such amenities.

**Water Samples**—166 water samples were taken for bacteriological examination during the year and the results were as follows:

	<i>No. of samples</i>	<i>Very satisfactory</i>	<i>Satis- factory</i>	<i>Unsatis- factory</i>
Untreated water	124	118	6	<i>Nil</i>
Treated water	42	42	<i>Nil</i>	<i>Nil</i>

**Piped Water Supply**—1,673 houses in the district have a piped water supply. Three houses in the area are not connected to town mains and approximately 21 houses are dependent upon standpipes.

**Drainage, Sewerage and Sewage Disposal—Sewage Works.**—These are modern works and a brief description of the treatment of crude sewage at these works is as follows. Crude sewage arriving at the works is led to collecting tanks and from here is pumped to the detritus tanks and from here to pyramidical continuous flow settlement tanks. Suspended solids in solution here fall out and form sludge. The super natent fluid from the settlement tanks is led to six circular primary filter beds and sprayed over the surface of these beds by rotary arms. Biological action takes place in these filter beds and effluent is collected from these beds and led into a humus tank. From this the effluent passes to three secondary filtration beds where the same action is repeated. From this it passes again to an humus tank and from this to the outfall. Sludge is pumped from the settlement tanks to the sludge drying beds. The crude sewage as it arrives at these works contains a high proportion of trade wastes which makes its treatment most difficult. Sludge has been a difficulty at these works for some time and also the high suspended solid figures in the crude sewage. The Council have engaged a firm of Consultant Engineers who have submitted a report containing their recommendations for improving the works and also for making provision for additional trade effluent from a particular works. The report is now being considered by the Council and further information provided by the consultants.

The following are the result of chemical analyses of crude sewage and final effluent taken by half hourly dippings from 7.30 a.m. to 12 noon on September 15th, 1959:

The results are as follows, expressed in parts per million.

					<i>Crude Sewage</i> <i>p.p.m.</i>	<i>Final Effluent</i> <i>p.p.m.</i>
Suspended solids ...	...	...	...	...	1294.0	45.2
Dissolved solids ...	...	...	...	...	3996.0	2545.0
Chloride (as Cl <sub>2</sub> ) ...	...	...	...	...	1010.0	800.0
Free ammonia ...	...	...	...	...	50.4	0.51
Albuminoid Ammonia ...	...	...	...	...	39.6	2.10
Nitrate (as N <sub>2</sub> ) ...	...	...	...	...	nil	23.0



Nitrite	...	...	...	...	...	nil	Very heavy trace
Oxygen consumed from permanganate (4 hrs. at 80°F)	...	...	...	...	...	651.0 (N/8)	20.64 (N/80)
Dissolved oxygen absorbed in 5 days	...	...	...	...	...	1040.0 (x200)	14.0 (x5)
Dissolved oxygen (at time of sampling)	...	...	...	...	...	-	-
pH value	...	...	...	...	...	6.8	8.0
Strength (McGowan)	...	...	...	...	...	472.0	15.0

Physical characters, yellowish grey, opaque strong sewage odour, grey suspended matter.

**Remarks:** Suspended solids are about 25 times greater than those found in a normal crude sewage and the strength is about 5 times that of an average domestic sewage.

**Conclusion:** This is an extremely strong sewage evidently containing much trade effluent. It is not markedly different from many samples analysed as far back as 1935 but the traders should neutralise and remove much of the suspended matter.

Physical characters, brownish yellow, faintly opalescent, colourless, brown suspended matter.

**Remarks:** Suspended solids are in excess of the usual permitted maximum of 30 p.p.m. The 5 days B.O.D. is well below the usual permitted of 20 p.p.m.

**Conclusion:** This is an unsatisfactory sewage effluent by reason of excessive suspended matter, but this is not surprising in view of the exceptional crude sewage and the presence of so much trade effluent.

**Movable Dwellings—Public Health Act, 1936, S. 269—**There are no licensed caravan sites in the district. Unauthorised parking of caravans in a field was dealt with during the year and no further trouble occurred.

**Public Cleansing—**A weekly collection of household refuse is made. Approximately 876 loads were collected and tipped at the Council's new tip off Windmill Road.

**Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1947—**The district is visited weekly by a Rodent Operator from Wellingborough by arrangement with the Wellingborough U.D.C. A summary of the work carried out as is follows:

Town Sewers	...	...	...	...	...	Two treatments
Sewage Works	...	...	...	...	...	Three treatments
Refuse Tip	...	...	...	...	...	Twelve treatments

Surveys:

Private dwellings	...	...	...	...	257
Other premises	...	...	...	...	98
Agricultural premises	...	...	...	...	16

Properties treated:

Private dwellings	...	...	...	...	31
Other premises	...	...	...	...	11
Licensed premises	...	...	...	...	34



**Atmospheric pollution**—A sub-committee of the Council together with the officials and a representative from N.I.F.E.S. met representatives from industrial concerns in the district and an interesting discussion was held on smoke abatement and the prevention of atmospheric pollution. Already as a result of this meeting and subsequent action some improvement has been noted with regard to this problem.

## SECTION D.

### HOUSING.

The Housing programme for 1959 was as follows:

Number of dwellings constructed	...	...	...	...	10
Number of dwellings under construction at end of the year	...	...	...	...	10
Types of dwellings constructed :					
Three bedroomed houses	...	...	...	...	2
Three bedroomed flats	...	...	...	...	8
Private development :					
Number of private dwellings constructed during the year	...	...	...	...	10
Number of private dwellings under construction at the end of the year	...	...	...	...	38

The building programme was chiefly concerned, as it was last year, with the construction of houses for persons displaced by the clearance of unfit properties. Houses erected since 1st April, 1945:

Local Authority and East Midlands Housing Association	414
Private Builders	43

During the year the Council continued with its policy of the re-development of Slum Clearance areas. The area between Park Street and Baker Street was virtually completed by the erection of 8 flats in Park Road. In addition a start was made on the erection of 10 flats on the Lime Street Clearance Area site, and these flats at the time of writing are all occupied. The Council are to be congratulated on their policy of re-developing suitable Clearance area sites as quickly as possible after the demolition of the unfit houses and so preventing the sites from becoming an eye-sore and giving rise to nuisances. The Council have continued their policy of modernising pre-war Council houses and 14 houses were dealt with during the course of the year. Confirmation of 5 clearance orders in respect of 18 houses in the Finedon Road, College Street areas were received from the Ministry and bungalows are now being erected in Highfield Road in which to re-house the majority of the occupants of these houses.

Prior to the commencement of the five year slum clearance programme 46 houses were dealt with and subsequently further action has been taken with regard to 116 houses. This leaves 47 more houses to complete the programme.

The number of applicants for Council houses at the end of the year was 119 which is 15 more than at the end of the previous year.

Applicants where a health factor was involved were referred to the Housing Committee and again I should like to thank this Committee for their sympathetic consideration given to each case.

## SECTION E.

### INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

**Milk**—Milk production comes under the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food and their inspectors take milk samples in the area. The County Council as the Foods and Drugs authority have delegated to the Local authority the issuing of licences for pasteurisation plants. Thus the necessity of frequent sampling and supervision is the responsibility of the local authority in whose area a pasteurisation plant is situated. Such a plant exists in Irthlingborough and deals with approximately 60,000 bottles of milk a day.

As will be seen from the figures given below samples of milk as well as churn rinses and washed bottle samples are taken constantly throughout the year. Pasteurised milk from this dairy is distributed over a large area of this and adjoining counties.

**Milk Samples**—107 milk samples were taken compared with 35 in the previous year. The results of samples were as follows :

Good	...	...	...	...	107
Unsatisfactory	...	...	...	...	Nil

**Washed bottle rinses**—100 samples were taken and 97 were reported as being sterile. In the previous year 16 samples were taken.

**Churn Rinses**—Number of samples taken : 294. Results :

<i>Satisfactory</i>	<i>Fairly satisfactory</i>	<i>Unsatisfactory</i>
255	28	11

The following licences were issued during the year :

Milk (Special Designations) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations, 1949, dealers' licences	5
Milk (Special Designations) (Raw Milk) Regulations 1949, licences	1
Supplementary dealers' licences	1

**Meat Inspection**—There are no licensed slaughterhouses in the area, all home killed meat being slaughtered and imported from adjoining districts.

**Food Inspection—Ice-cream**—Twenty-two premises are registered for the sale of ice-cream. Seventeen samples were taken and sent to the Public Health Laboratory at Northampton for examination. The results were as follows :

<i>No of samples</i>	<i>Grade I</i>	<i>Grade II</i>	<i>Grade III</i>	<i>Grade IV</i>
17	17	Nil	Nil	Nil

This is satisfactory.

**Inspection of Food Premises**—Routine inspection of food premises is very important and helps to maintain the necessary standards of hygiene which are essential in connection with food. There are 47 retail food premises in the area and 97 routine inspections were carried out. Table No. 4 in Section H gives a synopsis of inspections carried out by the Public Health Inspector during the course of the year.

## SECTION F.

### PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

**Smallpox**—No cases.

**Vaccination**—The vaccination figures for 1959 were as follows :

	<i>Under 1 yr.</i>	1	2-4	5-14	15 or over	<i>Total</i>
Primary ...	34	1	1	—	3	39
Re-vaccination	—	—	—	—	3	3
						42
				TOTAL	...	42

The figures for the previous year were :

	<i>Under 1 yr.</i>	1	2-4	5-14	15 or over	<i>Total</i>
Primary ...	53	—	1	—	7	61
Re-vaccination	—	—	—	2	3	5
TOTAL	53	—	1	2	10	66

The simple statement made above that no cases of Smallpox occurred is one that I hope I shall be able to repeat each year. Such a situation can be made a certainty by all persons seeking protection by vaccination. The vaccination figures show a fall this year but possibly all vaccination returns had not been received by the time this report was prepared. Sixty-five births were recorded and from the above figures it will be seen that 34 vaccinations were carried out under one year. If this is the true figure then it cannot be considered satisfactory.

**Scarlet Fever**—One case was notified which is the same as in the previous year. In 1959 in adjoining areas scarlet fever was rather widespread.

**Diphtheria**—It is now twenty-one years since a case of Diphtheria was notified in the area. The following table shows the number of children in the different age groups who had completed a full course of immunisation against Diphtheria on the 31st December, 1959:

### Immunisation in Relation to Child Population.

Number of Children who had completed a full course of Immunisation at any time up to 31 December, 1959

Age at 31:12:59 i.e. Born in Year ...	<i>Under</i> 1	1	2	3	4	5 to 9	10 to 14	<i>Total</i>
	1959	1958	1957	1956	1955	1954-1950	1949-1945	<i>under 15</i>
Number Immunised	—	21	28	35	43	264	293	684

The following immunisations were carried out at the Infant Welfare Centres during the year :

	<i>Under</i> 1	1	2	3	4	5-9	10-14	<i>Total</i>	<i>Booster</i>
Diphtheria only	—	—	3	—	—	1	—	4	15
Combined Diphtheria Whooping Cough	20	1	3	—	—	—	—	24	2
	20	1	6	—	—	1	—	28	17
Whooping Cough only	3	1	6	—	—	—	—	10	

Although these figures show an increase on those for the previous year, they are still below what one would expect and it may be that the full returns were not received before compiling this report.

**Whooping Cough**—Thirty-seven cases were notified compared with nine in the previous year. The outbreak commenced in July with the maximum of notifications in August and finished in September. Table No. 6 in Section H gives the age incidence of cases and from this it will be seen that the majority of cases occurred in children between the ages of 4 and 10 years. With the recent introduction of the use of triple antigen (Diphtheria, Tetanus and Pertussis combined) it is recommended to start immunisation at three months and subsequently a single booster dose is given at the age of two years and five years. This, in my opinion, should help to prevent attenuated attacks occurring later in childhood.

**Measles**—One hundred cases of measles were notified compared with two in the previous year. Cases occurred between February and April and it was interesting to note that the majority of cases were in the 10 year old group.

**Erysipelas**—No cases were notified.

**Pneumonia**—No cases were notified. One case was notified in the previous year.



**Influenza**—One death occurred from this cause compared with none in the previous year. This is interesting because in the previous year there was a widespread epidemic of both Asian type Influenza in the early part of the year followed later by our common type. Cases of Influenza during 1959 were few in number.

**Poliomyelitis**—It is nine years since a case occurred in Erithingborough.

**Poliomyelitis Vaccination**—It will be remembered that the vaccination scheme against Poliomyelitis was commenced in 1956 and since then the age range has been increased yearly. Persons up to the age of 40 years can now receive this protection. Very large numbers have now been vaccinated against this infectious disease. The following vaccinations were carried out in 1959:

<i>Under</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>5-9</i>	<i>10-14</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Third</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>Third</i>
								<i>Injs.</i>	<i>or over</i>	<i>Injs.</i>
6	52	23	16	15	54	28	194	351	131	128

**Food Poisoning**—No cases were notified.

**Dysentery**—No cases were notified.

**Epidemic Diarrhoea and Vomiting**—(Winter Vomiting Virus)—Towards the end of the year a widespread epidemic of diarrhoea and vomiting affected all my different districts. In my opinion it was a virus infection and most probably due to the Winter Vomiting Virus. Large numbers of persons were affected and the virus seemed to confer very little immunity following an attack so that many recurrent cases occurred. Symptoms varied considerably from case to case, some had only a mild attack but other cases were more severe. The usual symptoms were nausea followed in some instances by vomiting and then diarrhoea. The diarrhoea was profuse and actually the most common symptom. Many cases had no vomiting. There was a considerable amount of abdominal pain severe in some cases while in others it was more abdominal discomfort. The epidemic lasted about four months. Stools of patients examined were negative for bacteria.

**Tuberculosis**—Two new cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis were notified. This is the same number as in the two previous years. Both cases were in females. Two deaths occurred both in males. There were no deaths in the previous year. The following table shows the number of new cases of Tuberculosis and deaths over the last five years:

		<i>New Cases</i>						<i>Deaths</i>			
		<i>Pulmonary</i>		<i>Non-Pulmonary</i>		<i>Respiratory</i>		<i>Non-Respiratory</i>			
		M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.		
1955	...	...	2	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	
1956	...	..	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
1957	...	...	1	1	—	—	2	—	—	—	
1958	...	...	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
1959	...	...	—	2	—	—	2	—	—	—	

One case was admitted to the Rushden House Sanatorium during the year and two discharged. The number of persons on the Tuberculosis register at the end of the year was:

		<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Pulmonary	...	25	11	36
Non-Pulmonary	...	2	2	4
				<hr/>
				40
				<hr/>

Table No. 7, in Section H, gives information with regard to age and sex incidence of new cases and deaths from Tuberculosis.

## SECTION G.

### THE FACTORIES ACT, 1937 TO 1959

There are 45 factories on the register and 52 inspections were carried out during the year. Three written notices were served following these inspections.

There are 49 outworkers registered in the area. No complaints were received concerning the carrying out of outwork (S.110 & 111).

In factories where mechanical power is not used no complaints were received concerning ventilation, temperature, drainage, numbers employed or cleanliness.

## SECTION H.

### STATISTICAL TABLES, 1959.

TABLE No. 1

#### CAUSES OF DEATH, 1959.

<i>Causes of Death</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory ... ..	2	—	2
2. Tuberculosis, other ... ..	—	—	—
3. Syphilitic disease ... ..	—	—	—
4. Diphtheria ... ..	—	—	—
5. Whooping Cough ... ..	—	—	—
6. Meningococcal infections ... ..	—	—	—
7. Acute poliomyelitis ... ..	—	—	—
8. Measles ... ..	—	—	—
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases ... ..	—	—	—
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach ... ..	2	1	3
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus... ..	4	—	4
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast ... ..	—	—	—
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus ... ..	—	—	—
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms ... ..	5	4	9
15. Leukæia, aleukæmia ... ..	—	—	—
16. Diabetes ... ..	—	2	2
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system ... ..	3	3	6
18. Coronary disease, angina ... ..	2	3	5
19. Hypertension with heart disease ... ..	—	1	1
20. Other heart disease ... ..	1	2	3
21. Other circulatory disease ... ..	—	1	1
22. Influenza ... ..	—	—	—
23. Pneumonia ... ..	1	—	1
24. Bronchitis ... ..	3	1	4
25. Other diseases of respiratory system... ..	—	—	—
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum ... ..	3	—	3
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea ... ..	—	—	—
28. Nephritis and nephrosis ... ..	—	—	—
29. Hyperplasia of prostate ... ..	—	—	—
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion ... ..	—	—	—
31. Congenital malformations ... ..	—	—	—
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases ... ..	6	1	7
33. Motor vehicle accidents ... ..	—	—	—
34. All other accidents ... ..	2	3	5
35. Suicide ... ..	1	—	1
36. Homicide and operations of war ... ..	—	—	—
ALL CAUSES ... ..	35	22	57

TABLE No. 2.

## VITAL STATISTICS FOR 1959 AND PREVIOUS YEARS.

Year	Estimated Population	Births		Deaths			
		No.	Rate	Under No	1 year Rate	All Ages No.	Rate
1891	2,998						
1901	4,340						
1902	5,526	158	34.9	21	132.9	60	13.2
1903	4,728	152	32.4	23	151.3	63	13.3
1904	4,661	137	29.3	11	80.2	56	12.0
1905	4,661	150	32.4	11	93.3	55	11.7
1906	4,566	127	27.8	13	102.3	53	11.6
1907	4,600	111	24.1	13	117.4	57	12.3
1908	4,670	122	26.1	9	73.7	45	9.6
1909	4,750	98	20.6	8	81.6	44	9.2
1910	4,800	120	25.0	6	50.0	49	10.2
1911	4,630	124	26.7	17	137.0	56	12.0
1912	4,650	89	19.1	16	112.3	55	11.8
1913	4,675	108	23.1	5	46.2	39	8.3
1914	4,725	92	19.4	8	86.9	52	11.0
1915	4,790	95	20.4	15	157.8	60	12.5
1916	4,665	98	19.3	3	30.6	42	8.7
1917	4,445	56	11.2	6	107.1	50	11.2
1918	4,667	65	12.4	9	138.4	61	13.0
1919	5,011	73	13.9	6	82.1	50	9.9
1920	5,211	109	20.9	4	36.6	49	7.8
1921	4,911	90	18.3	6	66.6	47	9.5
1922	4,970	88	17.7	4	45.4	41	8.8
1923	4,956	69	13.9	6	86.9	50	10.0
1924	5,001	75	14.9	2	26.6	46	9.1
1925	4,916	77	15.5	5	64.9	57	11.5
1926	4,983	68	13.6	3	44.1	42	8.4
1927	4,931	79	16.0	3	37.8	57	11.5
1928	4,906	77	15.6	4	51.9	49	9.9
1929	4,931	71	14.9	4	54.0	55	11.1
1930	4,839	57	11.7	3	52.5	68	14.5
1931	4,715	64	13.5	4	62.8	50	10.6
1932	4,696	52	11.0	2	38.4	48	10.2
1933	4,679	63	13.4	1	15.8	61	13.0
1934	4,640	52	11.2	4	76.9	57	12.2
1935	4,547	55	12.0	3	56.3	46	10.1
1936	4,485	56	12.4	5	89.4	49	10.9
1937	4,184	67	14.9	2	29.8	54	12.0
1938	4,500	58	12.8	3	51.7	55	12.2
1939	‡ 4,512						
	† 4,663	70	15.4	3	42.8	49	10.5
1940	5,027	57	11.3	4	70.2	55	10.9
1941	5,237	69	13.2	6	86.9	61	11.6
1942	4,749	90	18.9	2	22.2	55	11.5
1943	4,535	86	11.8	2	23.2	60	13.2
1944	4,568	72	15.8	2	27.8	62	13.6
1945	4,427	74	16.7	4	51.1	59	13.3
1946	4,700	79	16.8	2	25.31	51	10.85
1947	4,812	85	17.64	2	23.52	59	12.26
1948	4,697	102	21.71	Nil.	—	55	11.70
1949	4,967	83	16.71	4	48.19	75	15.09
1950	4,969	83	16.68	1	12.04	47	9.65
1951	5,039	81	16.07	2	24.69	62	12.30
1952	4,996	71	14.81	Nil.	—	58	11.60
1953	5,090	79	15.52	1	12.65	47	9.23
1954	5,110	73	14.28	1	13.69	48	9.39
1955	5,100	76	14.90	Nil.	—	53	10.39
1956	5,100	67	13.13	3	14.77	71	13.92
1957	5,080	60	11.81	2	33.33	55	10.82
1958	5,140	73	14.20	2	27.39	48	9.33
1959	5,160	65	12.59	1	15.38	57	11.01

‡ Population for calculation of Birth-rate.

† Population for calculation of Death-rate.

TABLE NO. 3.

Prescribed particulars on the administration of the Factories Act, 1937 and 1948,  
for the year, 1959

## PART I OF THE ACT

## 1.—Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors)

<i>Premises</i>	<i>Number on Register</i>	<i>Number of</i>		
		<i>Inspections</i>	<i>Written notices</i>	<i>Occupiers prosecuted</i>
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ... ..	4	7	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ... ..	37	31	3	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises) ...	4	14	—	—
TOTAL ...	45	52	3	—

## 2.—Cases in which defects were found

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7) :					
Want of cleanliness (S.I.) ...	2	2	—	—	—
(a) insufficient ...	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective ...	1	1	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes ...	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork) ...	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL ...	3	3	—	—	—

## PART VIII OF THE ACT

## Outwork (Sections 110 and 111)

<i>Nature of Work</i>	<i>Section 110</i>			<i>Section 111</i>		
	<i>No. of out-workers in August list required by Sect. 110 (1) (c)</i>	<i>No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council</i>	<i>No. of prosecu- tions for failure to supply lists</i>	<i>No. of instances of work in unwhole- some premises</i>	<i>Notices served</i>	<i>Prosecu- tions</i>
Wearing Apparel— Making, etc. ...	49	—	—	—	—	—
Cleaning and washing ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Basket Making ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL ...	49	—	—	—	—	—



TABLE NO. 4

**SYNOPSIS OF INSPECTIONS, Etc., MADE BY THE  
PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR.**

**Factories Act, 1937—**

Number of Outworkers residing in district	...	...	49
Inspection of sanitary conveniences, etc.	...	...	52
Informal notices served and complied with	...	...	3
Inspections re means of escape in case of fire	...	...	9

**Food and Drugs Act, 1938—**

Slaughterhouses licensed	...	...	...	...	Nil
Premises registered for sale of ice-cream—					
As at 1st January	...	...	...	...	22

**Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933—**

Licensed slaughtermen	...	...	...	...	5
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**Milk Acts—**

Milk (Special Designations) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations, 1949, dealers' licences issued	...	5
Ditto (Pasteuriser's licence)	...	1
Supplementary dealers' licence issued	...	1

**Public Health Act, 1936—**

Drainage defects repaired	...	...	...	...	27
W.Cs. converted from slop closets	...	...	...	...	7
Sec. 47, W.C. conversions—grants in aid of approved	...	...	...	...	5
Cleansing of cesspits, cleansing of informal action	...	...	...	...	5
Housing repairs—informal action	...	...	...	...	43
Filthy house, informal action	...	...	...	...	1

**Unsound Food Surrendered—**

Canned meat	...	...	...	...	55 lbs.
Canned fruit	...	...	...	...	14 lbs.
Canned fish	...	...	...	...	4 lbs.
Fresh fish	...	...	...	...	28 lbs.

<b>Retail Food Premises Inspections</b>	...	...	...	97
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<b>No. of Retail Food Premises</b>	...	...	...	17
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TABLE No. 5.

## MONTHLY INCIDENCE OF NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

(Other than Tuberculosis) 1959.

<i>Disease</i>	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Total
Smallpox ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Pneumonia ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles ...	—	21	38	40	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	100
Whooping Cough	—	—	—	—	—	—	7	26	4	—	—	—	37
Erysipelas ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Influenza ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Poliomyelitis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS ...	—	21	38	40	—	—	9	26	4	—	—	—	138

TABLE No. 6.

## AGE INCIDENCE OF NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

(Other than Tuberculosis) 1959.

<i>Disease</i>	—1	—2	—3	—4	—5	—10	—15	—20	—35	—45	—65	65+	All Ages Removed to Hospital	Deaths
Scarlet Fever ...	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Pneumonia ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles ...	1	8	8	14	14	55	—	—	—	—	—	—	100	—
Whooping Cough	2	4	3	4	4	19	1	—	—	—	—	—	37	—
Erysipelas ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Influenza ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Poliomyelitis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS ...	3	12	11	18	18	75	1	—	—	—	—	—	138	—

TABLE No. 7

## NEW CASES OF AND DEATHS FROM TUBERCULOSIS, 1959.

Age Periods	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Respiratory.		Non-respiratory		Respiratory		Non-respiratory	
	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.
— 4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
— 5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
— 15	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
— 25	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
— 35	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
— 45	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
— 55	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
— 65	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65+	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	—	2	—	—	* 2	—	—	—

\*One death assigned by Registrar General in his returns.

TABLE No. 8

## ANALYSIS OF WATER CONSUMPTION, 1933-1959 (Million Gallons)

Year	Total metered Con- sumption	Trade %	Domestic Con- sumption	%	Total Con- sumption
1933	—	—	—	—	31.76
1934	12.547	36.8	21.629	63.2	31.176
1935	20.157	48.9	21.020	51.1	41.177
1936	35.541	63.4	20.549	36.6	56.090
1937	45.222	68.8	20.584	31.2	65.806
1938	46.222	63.6	26.612	36.4	72.861
1939	49.244	61.2	27.505	35.8	76.749
1940	50.505	61.5	31.600	38.5	82.105
1941	46.471	54.5	38.791	45.5	85.262
1942	48.319	56.2	37.739	43.8	86.088
1943	51.797	55.6	41.401	41.4	93.198
1944	51.760	54.2	43.668	45.8	95.428
1945	45.669	50.3	45.148	49.7	90.817
1946	38.222	47.7	41.957	52.3	80.179
1947	38.891	45.3	47.006	54.7	85.900
1948	37.684	43.5	48.930	56.5	86.614
1949	45.126	46.9	51.091	53.1	96.220
1950	42.325	42.6	56.999	57.4	99.324
1951	42.705	19.3	43.820	50.7	86.525
1952	43.309	54.6	36.048	45.4	79.357
1953	41.650	48.8	43.088	51.2	85.348
1954	38.234	48.2	41.054	51.8	79.288
1955	40.158	46.7	45.788	53.3	85.946
1956	51.076	51.2	45.748	45.8	99.824
1957	57.187	52.25	52.532	47.75	110.019
1958	57.044	53.27	49.860	46.73	106.904
1959	45.567	45.76	53.996	54.24	99.563

TABLE No. 9

Total quantities of crude sewage treated at the sewage disposal works each year.

1950	...	...	...	...	63,753,000 gallons
1951	...	...	...	...	95,486,000 gallons
1952	...	...	...	...	85,346,000 gallons
1953	...	...	...	...	77,348,000 gallons
1954	...	...	...	...	84,648,000 gallons
1955	...	...	...	...	75,170,000 gallons
1956	...	...	...	...	84,320,000 gallons
1957	...	...	...	...	98,449,000 gallons
1958	...	...	...	...	109,723,000 gallons
1959	...	...	...	...	99,898,000 gallons



